

Message Text

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STATE FOR CU/EE AND EUR/EE: USIA FOR IEU: BUCHAREST
FOR RICHMOND

FROM RICHMOND AND GERTH

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: OEXC, SCUL, PFOR, BU
SUBJECT: NEGOTIATION OF US-BULGARIAN PROGRM FOR EXCHANGES FOR 1977
-78

1. SUMMARY: NEGOTIATIONS WITH DAMYANOV OF MFA CULTURAL DEPT WENT VERY SMOOTHLY, REACHING AGREEMENT AD REFERENDUM AFTER TWO SESSIONS. DAMYANOV TOOK VERY FORWARD-LOOKING STANCE AND FAR FROM ATTEMPTING TO SKEW PROGRAM TOWARD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER INSTEAD PROPOSED ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS IN ART AND CULTURE AS WELL AS YEARLY GRANTS TO BULGARIAN SCHOLARS IN AMERICAN STUDIES. ALTHOUGH PROGRAM WILL COST A BIT MORE THAN ANTICIPATED PREVIOUSLY, IT LOOKS VERY MUCH IN OUR OVERALL INTEREST. OUR IMPRESSION, WITH WHICH EMBASSY CONCURS, IS THAT BULGARIANS GENUINELY HOPE FOR HIGH LEVEL OF CULTURAL INTERCHANGE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN TWO SESSIONS WITH CHAVDAR DAMYANOV, HEAD OF MFA INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL COOPERATION DEPT, AGREEMENT WAS REACHED AD REFERENDUM ON A DRAFT US-BULGARIAN PROGRAM OF EXCHANGES WHICH REFLECTS THE INTERESTS OF BOTH SIDES. TEXT BEING TRANSMITTED SEPTTEL.

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3. DRAFT PROGRAM INCLUDES REFERENCE TO "AT LEAST SEVEN INTERNATIONAL VISITORS AND SPECIALISTS ON EACH SIDE." BULGARIANS WILL PAY INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TO US AND RETURN FOR THEIR IVS, AND WILL OFFER RECIPROCAL PROGRAM FOR AMERICANS IN BULGARIA. AGREEMENT WAS ALSO REACHED ON EXCHANGE OF LECTURERS IN "CIVILIZATION, LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE" BETWEEN SOFIA UNIVERSITY AND AN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY. (BULGARIANS HAVE SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE, WHERE THEY HAVE HAD A LECTURER FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS, AS THE PARTNER UNIVERSITY.) SOMEWHAT TO OUR SURPRISE, BULGARIANS ALSO PROPOSED (AND WE ACCEPTED) CU GRANT FOR A BULGARIAN RESEARCHER (PROBABLY POST-DOCTORAL) IN AMERICAN STUDIES AND TWO SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS (PROBABLY AT THE PRE-DOCTORAL LEVEL) IN ART AND CULTURE.

4. SCIENCE AND EXHIBITION PARAGRAPHS WERE ACCEPTED BY BULGARIANS ESSENTIALLY AS PROPOSED IN US DRAFT. DRAFT PROGRAM WILL BE SUBMITTED BY BULGARIANS TO THEIR AUTHORITIES FOR REVIEW. DAMYANOV AND EMBOFFS WILL MEET JEARLY IN JANUARY. WE BELIEVE ANY FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS CAN BE CONDUCTED BY EMBASSY WITHOUT PARTICIPATION OF DEPT OFFICERS.

5. SIGNING PROCEDURE. FOLLOWING ALTERNATIVES WERE PROPOSED BY EMBASSY TO DAMYANOV. (A) CULTURAL-SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT AND PROGRAM DOCUMENT TO BE SIGNED IN SOFIA IN JANUARY WITH AMBASSADOR REPRESENTING US; PAPAZOV VISIT TO TAKE PLACE IN SPRING AT WHICH TIME PAPAZOV WILL SIGN NSF MEMORANDUM. (B) HOLD CULTURAL-SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT AND PROGRAM DOCUMENT FOR PAPAZOV TO SIGN DURING VISIT. WE POINTED OUT UNCERTAINTY AS TO WHEN NEW PRESIDENTIAL SCIENCE ADVISER WILL BE APPOINTED MIGHT MEAN DELAY OF SEVERAL MONTHS IN SCHEDULING PAPAZOV VISIT AND THEREFORE WE WERE INCLINED TO SIGNING IN SOFIA. DAMYANOV WILL DISCUSS WITH HIS SUPERIORS AND INFORM US LATER.

6. IN ADDITION TO DAMYANOV, CALLS WERE MADE ON STOYAN KONSTANTINOV OF COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE, TECHNICAL PROGRESS AND HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMIL ALEXANDROV OF COMMITTEE FOR ART AND CULTURE. AT EACH MEETING WE WERE STRUCK BY HIGH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BULGARIAN INTEREST IN MOVING AHEAD ON A BROAD FRONT TO DEVELOP EXCHANGES WITH US. WHILE BULGARIANS HAVE, AS EXPECTED, HIGH INTEREST IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGES, THIS IS BALANCED BY THEIR DESIRE TO PROMOTE ARTS, CULTURAL EXHIBITIONS, AND AMERICAN AND BULGARIAN STUDIES. AS IN OTHER EE COUNTRIES, THERE IS ALSO INTEREST IN DIRECT EXCHANGES WITH US UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES. BULGARIANS APPEAR TO HAVE RECOGNIZED VALUE OF THESE

EXCHANGES AND TO HAVE MADE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL DECISION
TO MOVE FORWARD IN DEVELOPING THEM WITH US.

7. FOR CU/EE: DRAFT PROGRAM WOULD COST ABOUT DOLLARS 45,000
WHICH EXCEEDS FY 77 TENTATIVE ALLOCATION OF DOLLARS 36,800.
SOME COSTS HOWEVER, COULD BE DEFERRED TO FY 78. MAJOR
ITEM WILL BE LECTURER EXCHANGE. WE MET WITH AUGEROT OF
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON (SEATTLE) AND DISCUSSED DIRECT
SEATTLE-SOFIA LECTURER EXCHANGE WHICH CU HAD UNDER CONSI-
DERATION LAST YEAR. UNDER THIS PROPOSAL, CU WOULD FUND US
LECTURER (FROM SEATTLE) AT SOFIA AND SEATTLE AND CU WOULD
FUND COST OF BULGARIAN. TOTAL COST WILL DEPEND ON DEAL WE
NEGOTIATE WITH SEATTLE, BUT NOTE THAT BULGARIANS NOW WOULD
ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR HOUSING AND STIPEND FOR AMERICAN
LECTURER AT SOFIA. OTHER UNANTICIPATED BUDGET ITMES ARE
COSTS OF TWO SCHOLARSHIPS FOR BULGARIAN PRE-DOCTORAL OR
DOCTORAL FELLOWS IN ARTS AND CULTURE, COST OF ONE BULGARIAN
SENIOR (POST-DOCTORAL) RESEARCHER IN AMERICAN STUDIES (WHICH
WE HAVE DEFERRED TO FY 78), ONE US LECTURER FOR SUMMER
COURSE FOR BULGARIAN TEACHERS OF ENGLISH, AND US-BULGARIAN
SEMINAR ON THRACEOLOGY, TO BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH
THRACIAN EXHIBIT AT METROPOLITIAN MUSEUM OF ART. IREX HAS
EXPRESSED INTEREST IN CONDUCTING THE SEMINAR BUT MAY SEEK
SOME CU FUNDING FOR US PARTICIPANTS AS WELL AS FOR COSTS
OF BULGARIANS IN US (INCLUDING SOME POST-SEMINAR TRAVEL).
BULGARIANS HAVE OFFERED RECIPROCAL ARRANGEMENT FOR A
SEMINAR IN BULGARIA (TOPIC TO BE JOINTLY DETERMINED). IF
IREX FULLY FUNDS THRACEOLOGY SEMINAR, RETURN SEMINAR WOULD
BE THEIRS. IF CU PARTIALLY FUNDS IT, EMBASSY SOFIA AND
DEPT WOULD WANT TO HAVE ROLE IN DETERMINING SUBJECT OF
RETURN SEMINAR IN BULGARIA.

8. ALL IN ALL, WE AND EMBASSY ARE MOST ENCOURAGED BY
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DEVELOPMENTS.
FELDMAN

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